PERMANENT IMPROVEMENTS *to the* HOME *and* GROUNDS

Permanent Improvements *to the* Home *and* Grounds

(As Pictured on the Cover)

AN EXAMINATION of the interesting illustration on the cover of this book shows the following uses of portland cement:

House built of Concrete Block
Portland Cement Stucco Finish
Cement Asbestos Shingles
Precast Concrete Chimney Pots
Concrete Exterior Trim
Concrete Tile Veranda
Concrete Steps
Concrete Walks
Concrete Driveway
Precast Concrete Garden Furniture (including Sundial, Jardinieres, Benches, etc.)
Concrete Pool
Concrete Walls
Concrete Block Garage (with Portland Cement Stucco Finish and Cement Asbestos Shingle Roof)
Concrete Roofing Tile (on Top of Wall)

These attractive improvements not only enhance the beauty of a home and its surroundings but their permanent and enduring qualities add materially to its resale value. Concrete steps, sidewalks, driveways, walls, pools, etc. are made from concrete and constructed on the grounds. The garden furniture, concrete block for house and garage, roofing material, tile, etc. are precast units and may be purchased from the manufacturers and then placed in position by masons. The surfacing of structures with portland cement stucco is also done by masons over the concrete block, brick, tile or metal lath, whichever may be the base. You can make improvements like these, to your home and grounds, and your building material dealer can give you valuable assistance in obtaining any necessary information.

The dealer who displays the Blue-and-White "Lehigh Cement" Sign is a reliable man to consult.

LEHIGH CEMENT

Whenever you build of concrete be sure to specify Lehigh Cement—Lehigh means dependability.

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Increasing the Beauty and Value of Your Home and Grounds

PROBABLY the most persistent impulse known to the average homeowner originates in the ever-present desire for improvements to the home and grounds. Whether the house be new or old, large or small, the opportunity is always present to enhance its beauty and value by architectural improvements. Similarly, even the most modest touches of landscaping as represented by planting and the use of garden accessories will add materially to the attractiveness of the setting.

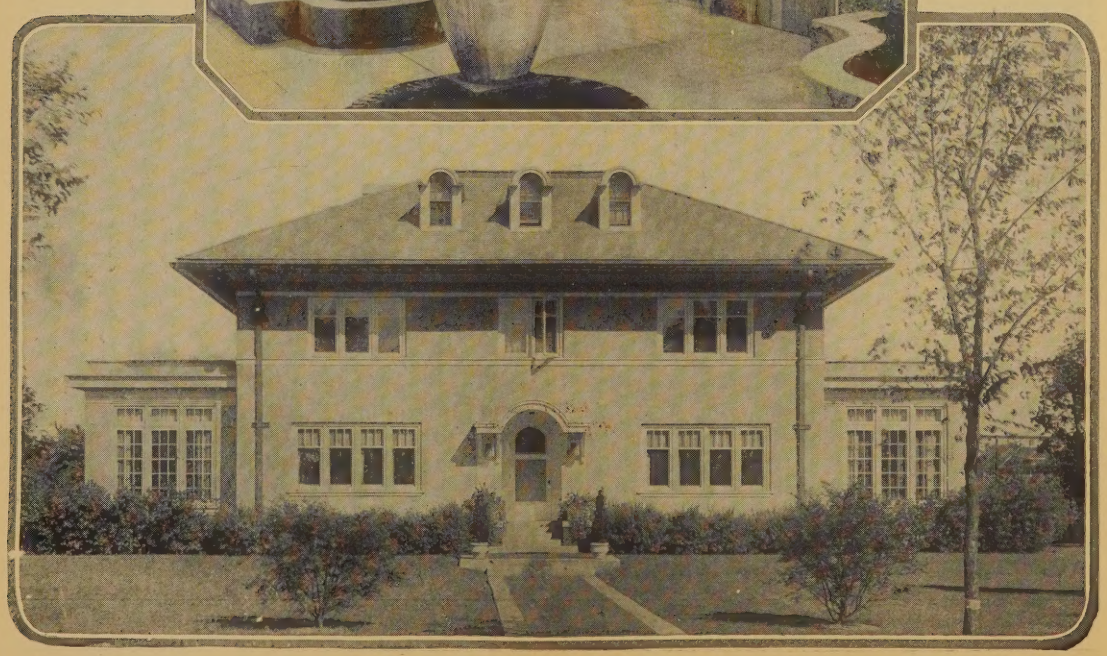
There are several facts regarding such improvements which are of definite interest, though not always obvious. For instance, it is surprising to learn how inexpensively many of these improvements can be made. Walks, drives, walls, pools and garden furniture of concrete can be installed for much less money than the average homeowner would imagine.

Perhaps the most important practical point about such improvements is that money thus spent represents a real investment which pays definite dividends in real estate profits. Each improvement adds several times its cost to the market value of the property. When the setting of the house is made attractive it has at once a readier and higher sales or rental value.

The purpose of this book is to present a number of suggestions covering improvements to the home and grounds which can be made at moderate cost using Lehigh Portland Cement concrete. It will be obvious to the reader who studies the following pages that concrete is the most logical and least expensive material which can be found for making such improvements.

The use of a good portland cement is the primary requirement of good concrete and stucco work. The use of Lehigh Portland Cement is the owner's absolute insurance of dependability—hence the slogan, "Lehigh Means Dependability."

Portland Cement Stucco and Concrete Used in Many Forms to Add Attractiveness to the Entrance



Entrance Details and Walk Shown Below Are All Designed in Concrete

An interesting sidewalk of concrete flagging laid in a random ashlar pattern with open joints

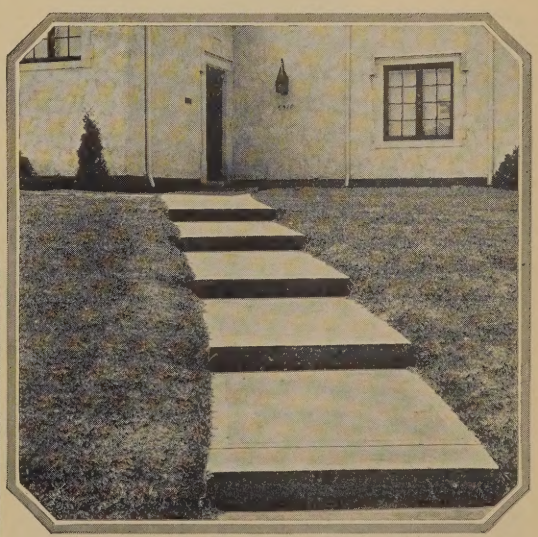
Concrete Walks and Steps

THESE illustrations tell the story better than words. Here are clean-cut permanent improvements which enhance the value and appearance of any property and can be made rapidly and at low cost. For the purpose of providing some definite information on the cost of concrete sidewalks a number of estimates were requested recently. Contractors' figures indicated that the average cost of well-built concrete sidewalks is from 35c to 40c a square foot. Thus a four-foot sidewalk fifty feet long can be built for less than $100.

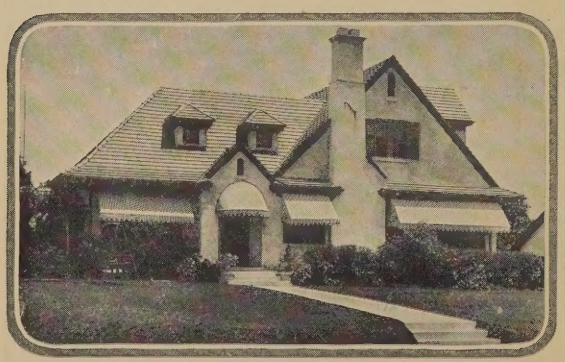
Concrete walks and steps for the terraced yard

Broad flat concrete steps with low parapets and urns

Note below the trim appearance of concrete walks, steps and porch



An effective method of building the concrete walk for an up-grade approach

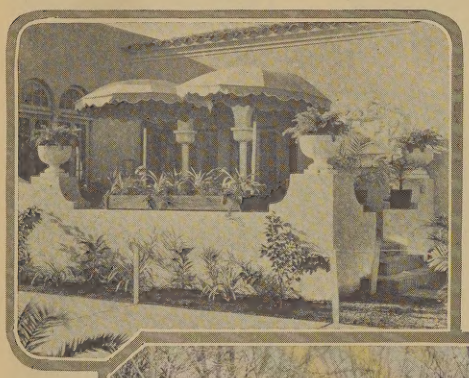


Concrete Walls and Gateways

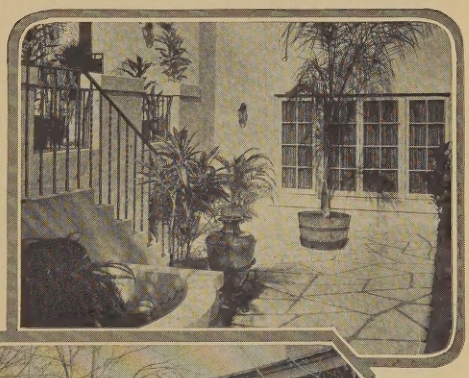
ONE of the most interesting opportunities for improving the appearance of residential property is by the carefully studied use of concrete walls, gate posts, garden entrances and arbors. In addition to their wide variation in design many interesting combinations of materials, colors and decorative textures offer to the homeowner an unlimited selection for any type of house.

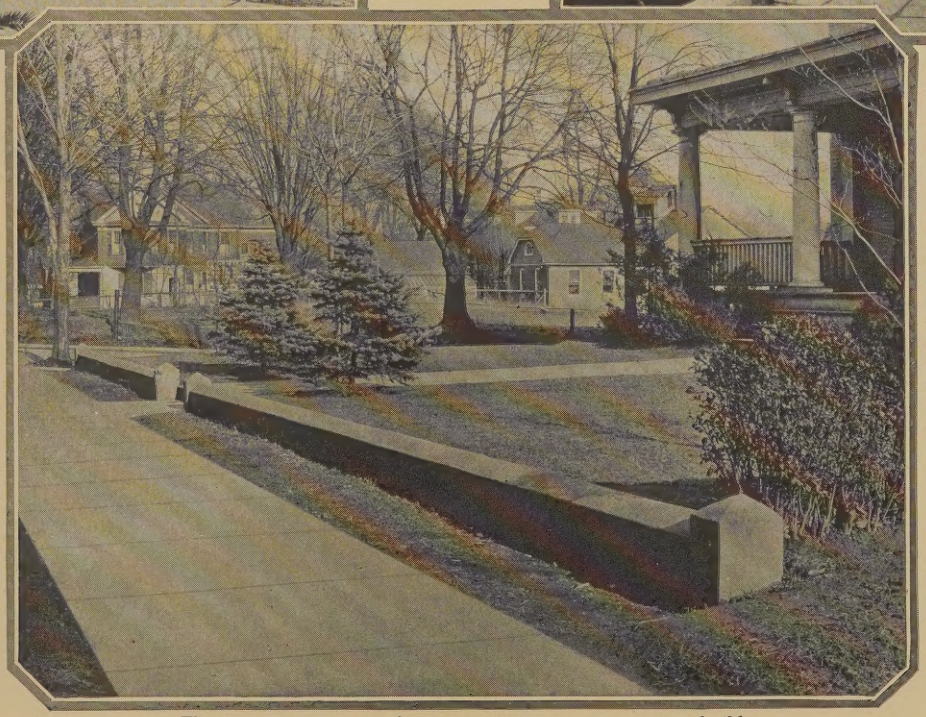
Walls and posts may be built up of concrete block laid on footings of concrete and stuccoed or they may be of reinforced concrete.

Spanish concrete wall topped with red concrete tile



Two interesting examples of the multifold uses of concrete—note that decorative walls, walks and curbs, garden furniture and ornamentation are of concrete





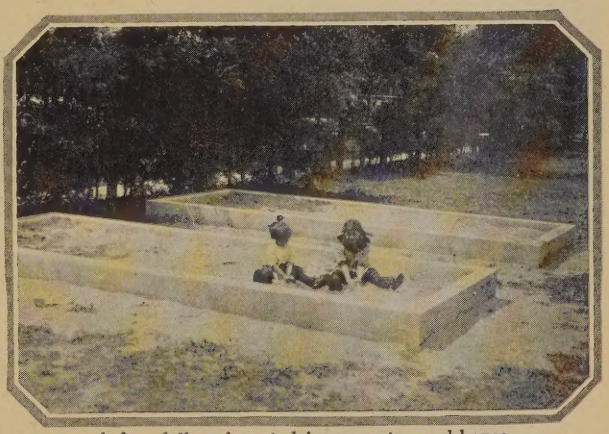
The low parapet type of concrete wall is inexpensive to build

Left—a simple type of concrete bird-bath

The concrete sun dial

—and crystal ball pedestal

Many types of concrete urns and jars may be purchased from the stock of the concrete products manufacturer



A few dollars invested in concrete sand-boxes to keep the children interested and happy

For fountain or bird-bath

Concrete products include decorative oil jars

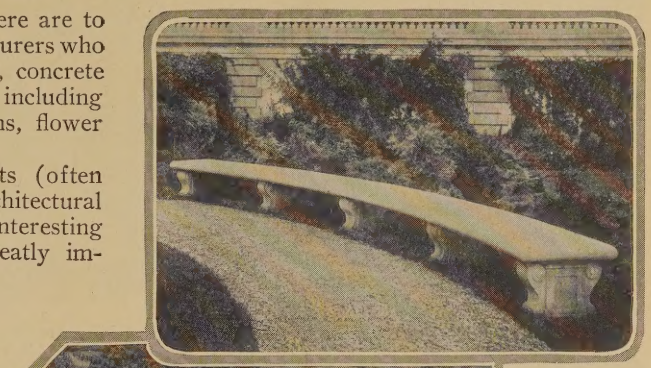
Garden Furniture of Precast Concrete

IN practically all towns and cities there are to be found concrete products manufacturers who specialize in concrete building block, concrete trim, and concrete garden furniture, including ornamental benches, sun-dials, fountains, flower pots and similar decorative accessories.

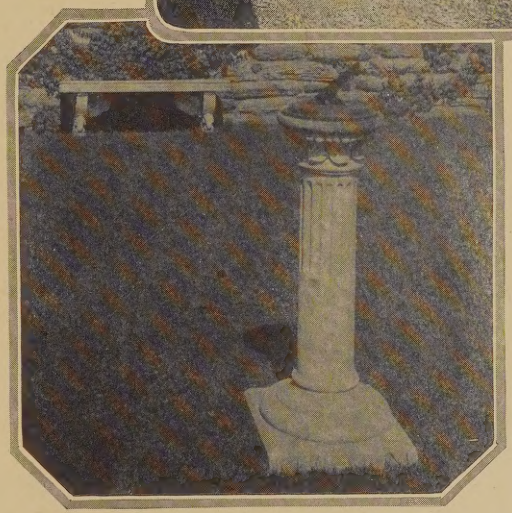
The use of precast concrete products (often termed cast stone), in their various architectural and ornamental forms, offers a most interesting opportunity for the homeowner to greatly improve the appearance of his property at very low cost. The illustrations indicate the wide range of selection and the excellent chances for good taste and discrimination in placing these decorative objects at strategic points in the landscape plan.

The manufacturer usually operates a number of moulds so that he can offer a wide selection, varying from simple to quite elaborate patterns. Concrete garden furniture is obtainable in a number of color tones and surface textures. Designs are usually selected so that the details bear some relationship to the architecture and color of the house, or perhaps that of the wall which may form the background.

Concrete garden furniture is often called cast stone or art stone

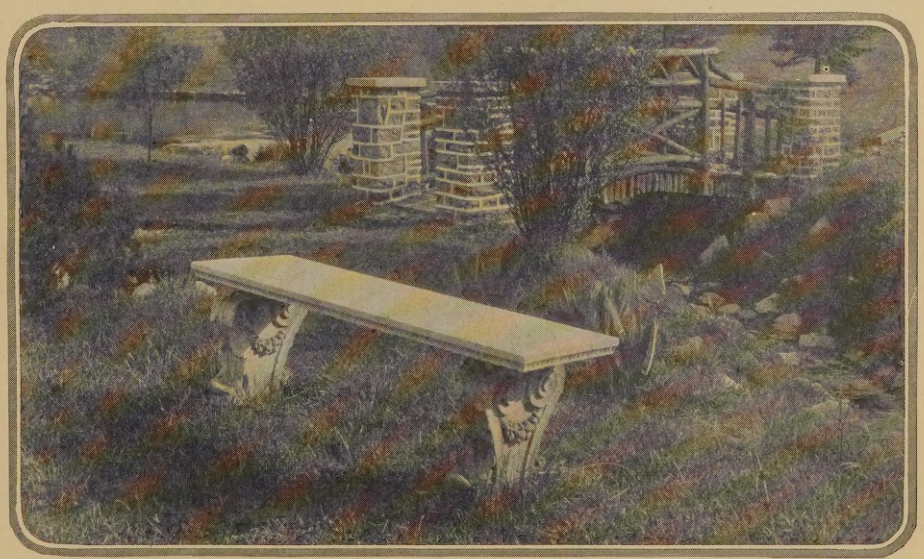


Concrete garden benches of special design provide interesting units for the decorative scheme

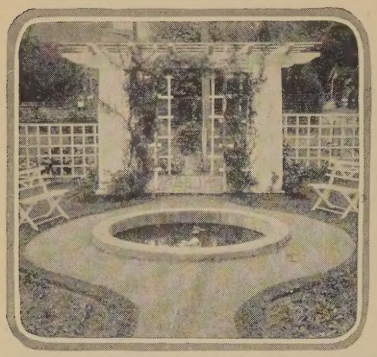


Typical concrete sun-dial and bench

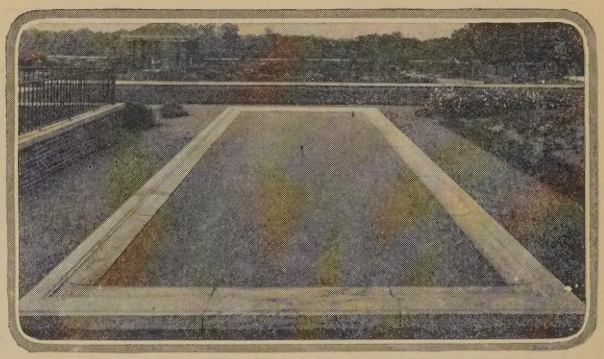
All of the garden furniture shown on these pages is made by concrete products manufacturers—a wide range of stock and special patterns is available anywhere



Concrete garden furniture is the finishing touch in landscaping

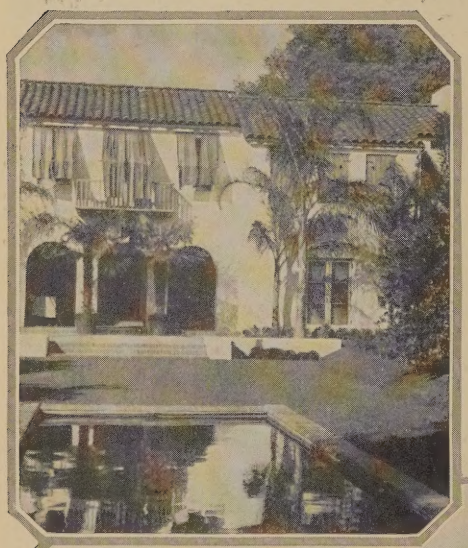


Left—a simple concrete garden pool in a formal setting



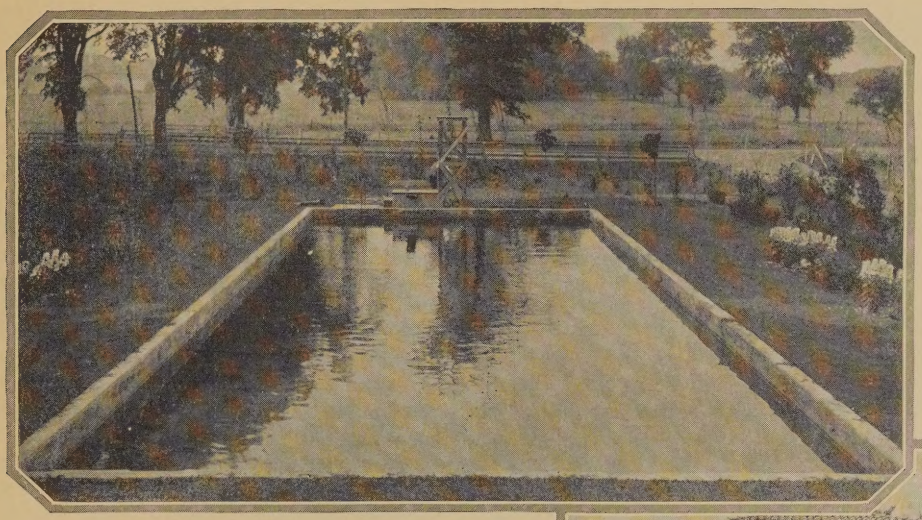
It is surprising how inexpensively a swimming pool like this can be built—ask your contractor

CONCRETE garden and swimming pools are easily constructed by making the necessary excavation and casting the walls and bottom of the pool in wooden forms which are quickly built up for the purpose. Concrete of various thicknesses is used in accordance with the size of the pool. Anyone who is interested in having a pool built can obtain the name of a good contractor for this purpose by asking the local Lehigh dealer.



A large mirror-pool of concrete contributes its ever-changing reflections of colorful beauty

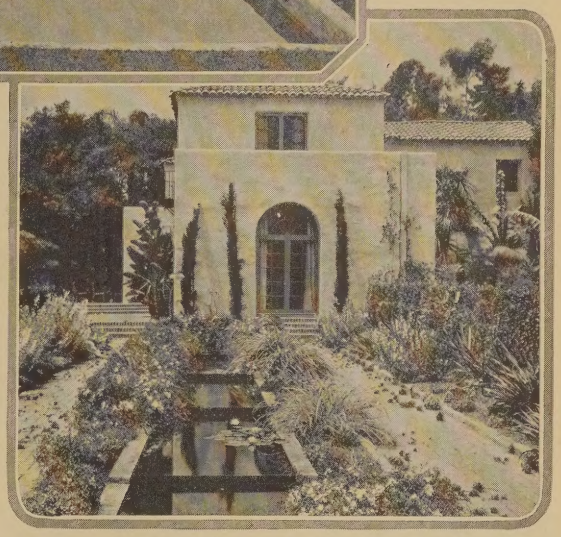
The concrete swimming pool may be placed so that it will contribute importantly to the beauty of the landscaping



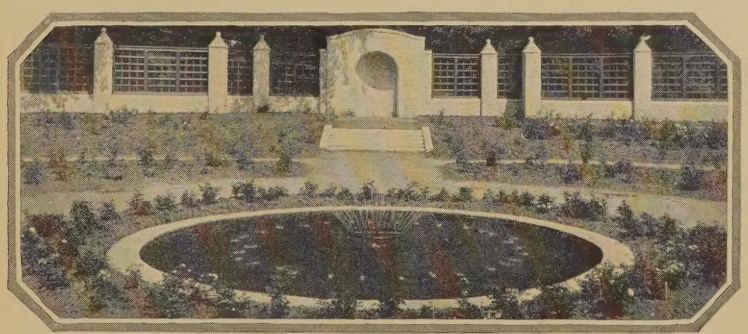
A large concrete swimming pool of this type is an attractive addition to the beauty and enjoyment of even the smallest estate

Garden and Swimming Pools

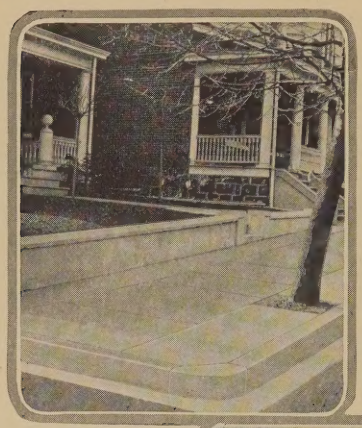
THE landscape architect knows that a spot of water in any garden will contribute beauty more readily than any other decorative device. Even in the smallest yards and courts, this decorative method may be employed to full advantage. A small lily pool can be quickly built of concrete for a small investment in materials and labor. Of course, there is no limit to the artistic range possible not only in the form of the pool and the decorative objects around it, but in the coloring used and the possibility of introducing colored cement tile in various patterns. The illustrations shown indicate some of the possibilities of this type of decorative treatment, providing a spot which always draws interest because of its mirrored reflections of beauty. For more spacious grounds, the concrete swimming pool is highly popular because it can be introduced at comparatively low cost. The desirability of the outdoor swimming pool as an addition to the enjoyable features of even small estates has grown apace with the popularity of swimming, particularly in districts where natural facilities are not so easily available.



Concrete is used here to build a shallow terraced lily pool—note concrete tile walks with interspersed grass tufts



Concrete has contributed to this charming vista not only the pleasant fountain pool but the decorative steps, niche, and fence which form an effective background



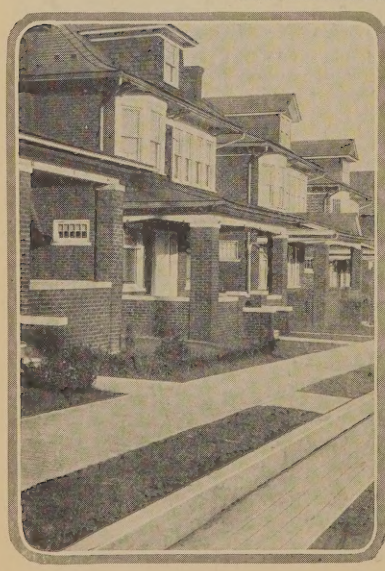
Concrete Curbs and Gutters

IN addition to their very practical use for drainage purposes, the trim appearance of concrete gutters adds materially to the attractiveness of any residential property. Gutters and curbs can be built in one operation, special forms being used so that different curb shapes may be introduced.

The use of concrete curbs is not limited to roads and drives. This form of concrete construction makes excellent trim around plots of turf and flower beds. Curbs are also often used to set off walks and for the edging of concrete garden pools. Here again is a form of construction which can be carried out rapidly and inexpensively, completely solving the problems of surface drainage and at all times maintaining a neat appearance.

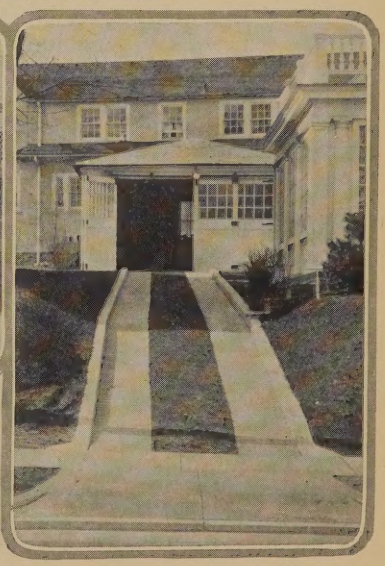
Above is an example of an excellent type of simple concrete curb, gutter, and sidewalk. Note also the use of concrete for retaining walls

Here is another example of concrete improvements showing a broad gutter with sloping curb



Another type of broad concrete gutter with high curb and cement walk

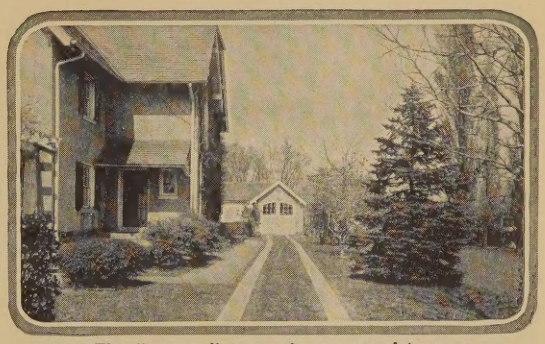
A concrete drain for rain water



A concrete "runway" effectively trimmed with concrete curbs

Concrete Roads and Driveways

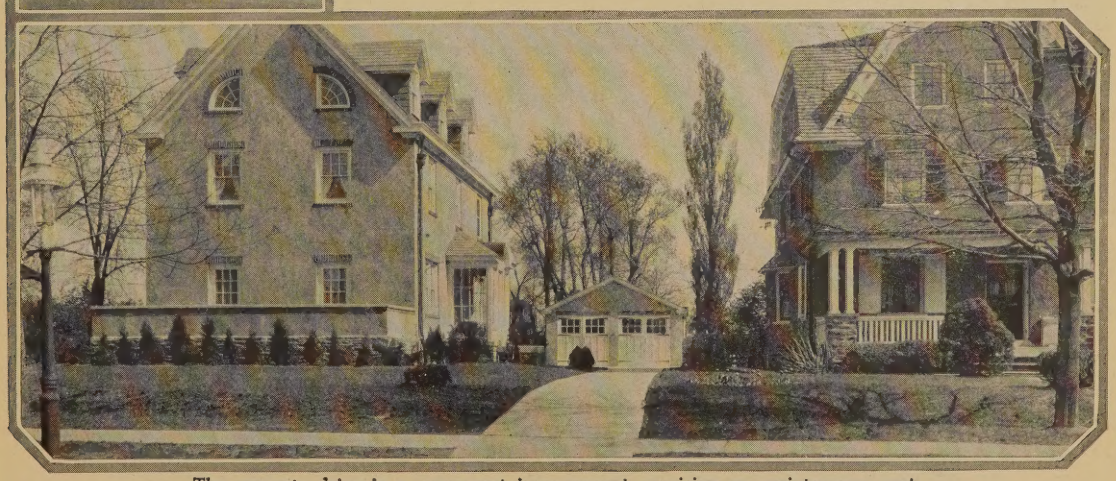
THE practical features of concrete for the construction of roads and driveways have become so definitely recognized that only one or two points need explanation. The most important consideration for the homeowner is that concrete drives are much less expensive than the average person might think. The ordinary type of six-inch concrete driveway can be built for approximately 40c to 45c a square foot, according to estimates which were obtained for the purpose of this book. Of course, costs vary in different sections of the country according to labor conditions, but the local contractor or Lehigh dealer can provide this information. One interesting type of driveway, as illustrated herewith, and one which incidentally is very economical, is the two-track drive, sometimes called a "runway." This construction is very simple, consisting only of broad bands of concrete as shown.



The "runway" type of concrete driveway

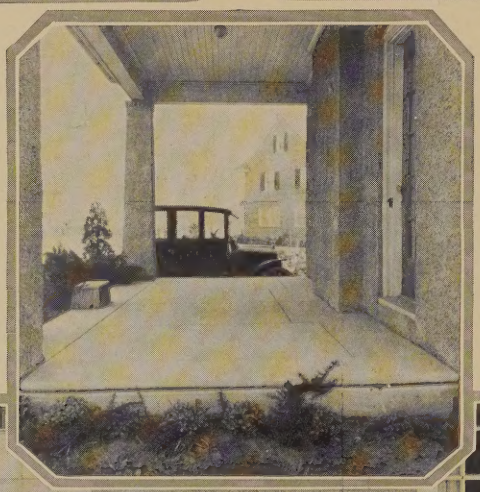
Left — another type of concrete "runway," forming a practical and attractive entrance drive

Right — the broad concrete drive is often used for the more formal type of approach



The concrete drive is a permanent improvement requiring no maintenance cost

Above is shown a simple and effective type of concrete terrace with bench and urns of concrete



The recessed concrete terrace above is a feature of the Lehigh Model Home in New York, described in the book "Building Better Homes" (see inside back cover of this book)

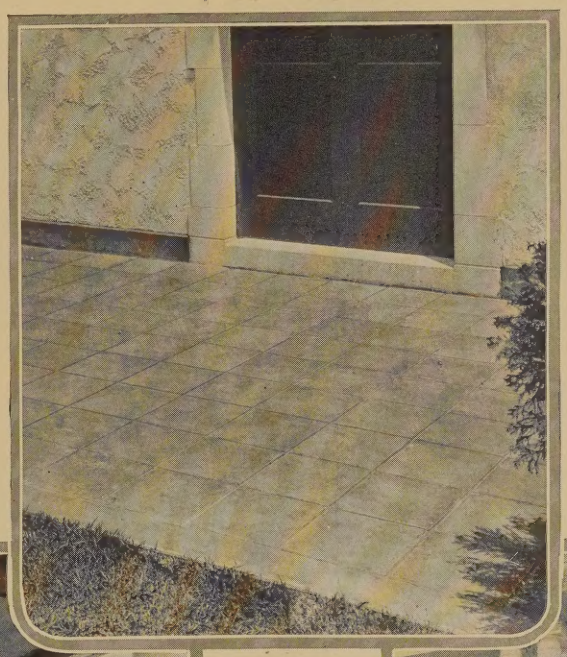
Two types of concrete porches are illustrated above. The tile and flagging divisions are marked off before the cement finish coat is dry,—any desired color may be introduced

Concrete Porches and Terraces

ONE of the easiest ways to enhance the architectural appearance of a house—to greatly increase its apparent size and to add materially to the comfort of its occupancy—is by the addition of porches and terraces.

The footings, posts, rails and floor of the porch are best constructed of concrete, surfaced with portland cement stucco in any desired color.

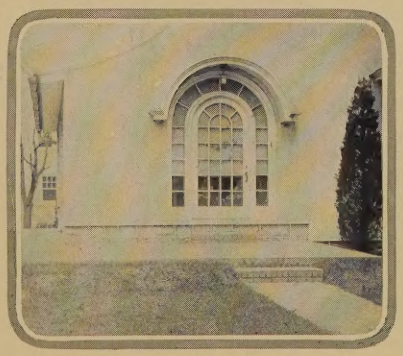
Terraces, as shown in the accompanying illustrations, are simply flat platforms which are often rendered attractive by the erection of awnings during the summer months. Such terraces are built economically of six-inch slabs of reinforced concrete with a top surfacing of cement tile or colored cement marked off in tile effects.



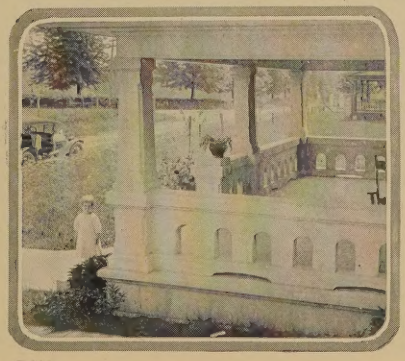
At the left is shown a concrete terrace used for the Lehigh Model Home in Kansas City as described in "Building Better Homes" (see inside back cover of this book)

Left—a good type of concrete porch floor marked off in effective tile pattern

Right—concrete porch steps afford a permanent surface



An open terrace consisting of a concrete slab with Portland cement surfacing



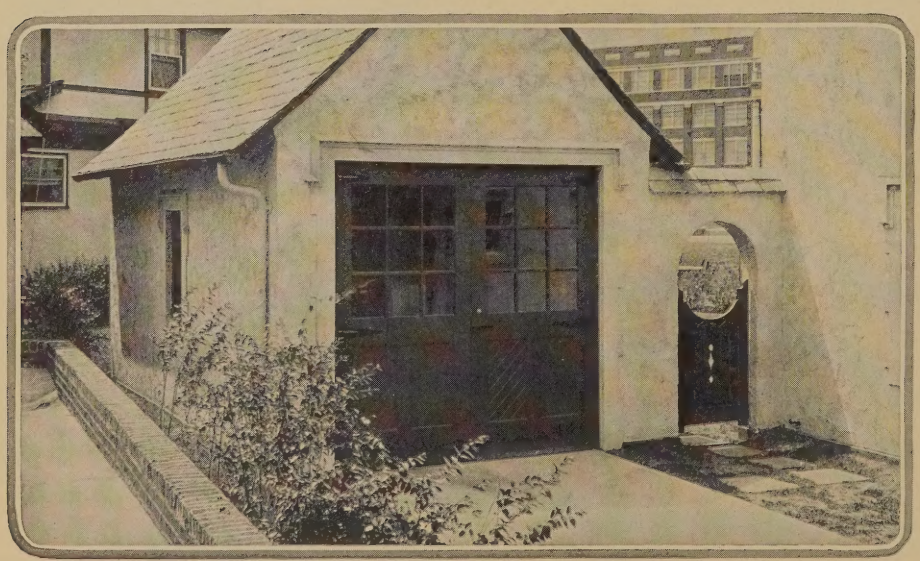
A porch built entirely of concrete, including floor, rails, and columns

Concrete masonry garage for Spanish type house

An economical two-car garage

Small garage for a house of French type. Roofs of garages shown are cement asbestos shingles or concrete tile

Right—concrete masonry wall construction as used for these garages

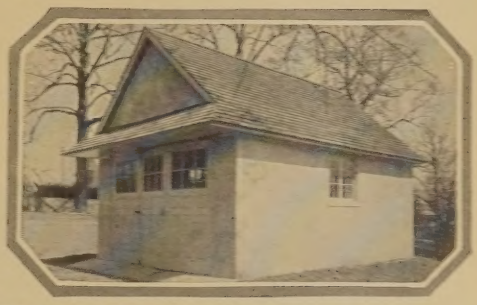


Garage for an English type house—the three one-car garages shown on this page are used with Lehigh Model Homes described in "Building Better Homes" (see back inside cover of this book)

Good Garage Design and Construction

IT is a strange fact that many homeowners who take considerable pride in the good appearance of their homes and grounds will permit an ugly garage to destroy much of the attractiveness of the composition. Again, the garage will be built of cheap and flimsy construction, creating fire hazards and requiring considerable upkeep cost in order to maintain a decent appearance.

An excellent type of garage construction is to be had by the use of concrete blocks surfaced with portland cement stucco as illustrated. Such garages are simply constructed, with a flat concrete floor cast in one slab, after which the concrete block walls are erected, the roof is built on, and the exterior stuccoed in any desired color and texture. If the garage is well located in respect to the house, it becomes an important architectural feature, or if the grounds are large, it may be set off and carefully designed to become an interesting feature of the landscape.



Above is shown a good type of garage for the Colonial house

Here is a carefully designed two-car garage which has a forecourt of cement tile

Two-car garage of simple concrete masonry construction with rough textured stucco finish

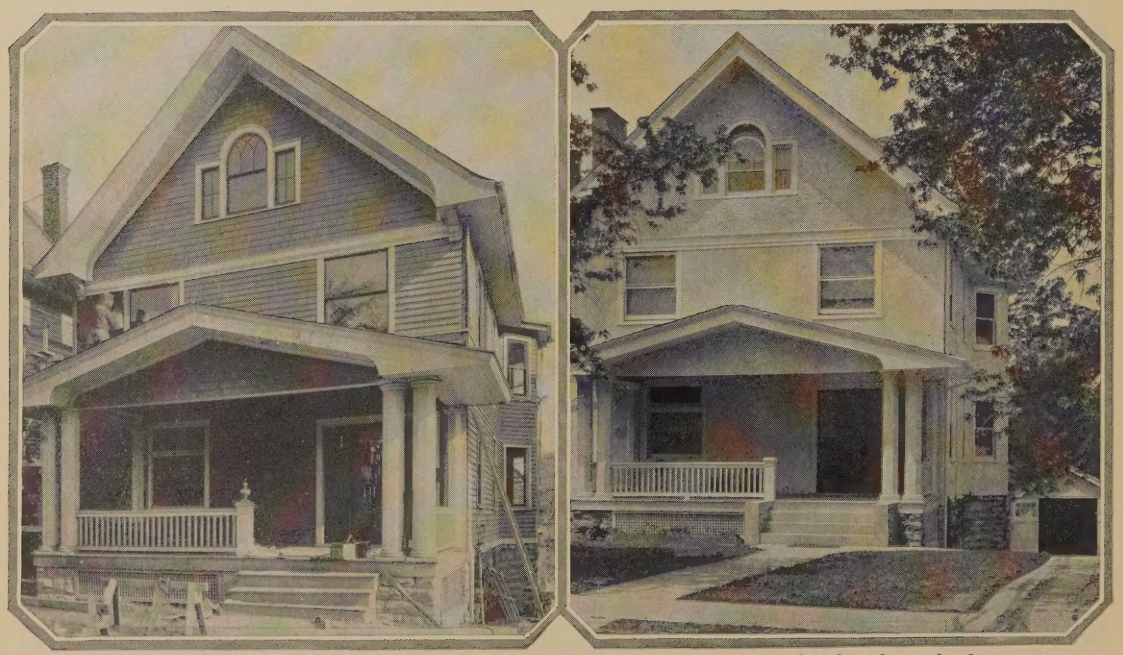
Before and after refinishing the exterior with portland cement stucco

Portland Cement Stucco

NO matter what backing is used, provided the materials are dependable and the workmanship good, you can secure satisfactory results in the charming stucco effects which are so much in vogue. Portland cement stucco walls are rigid and satisfactory in any climate, whether warm or cold.

Stucco blends harmoniously with every style of architecture; it affords unlimited opportunities in color composition; it permits of an endless flexibility of surface treatment; it lends itself admirably to the widest choice of artistic effects in texture. In fact, the practical qualities of cement, its permanence and economy, have inspired our architects to produce the loveliest effects imaginable.

For permanence and beauty—be sure your stucco is made of portland cement



Note the interesting improvement in appearance after this house was resurfaced with portland cement stucco—a permanent exterior which requires no maintenance cost

When Old Houses Need New Exteriors

ONE of the greatest contributions which portland cement stucco has made to meet the needs of the homeowner is to provide an easy medium through which old houses may be made new in appearance. In this country today there are hundreds of thousands of old dwellings which have become obsolete in appearance through the effect of weathering and also because of absurd architectural styles. With the exercise of a little ingenuity on the part of the owner or his architect an old house can be rejuvenated by trimming off some of the objectionable features, adding a porch, and applying directly over the old walls a new surfacing of attractive stucco.

Above is shown an old house of unattractive appearance and poor architecture — at the left is shown the same house after an architect had carefully designed its remodeling, using portland cement stucco and concrete with cement asbestos shingles to complete this transformation

The "before and after" illustrations shown herewith have been carefully selected as representing the average type of house. Of course, these remodeled houses may be embellished to a far greater degree in accordance with the owner's wishes and the funds available.

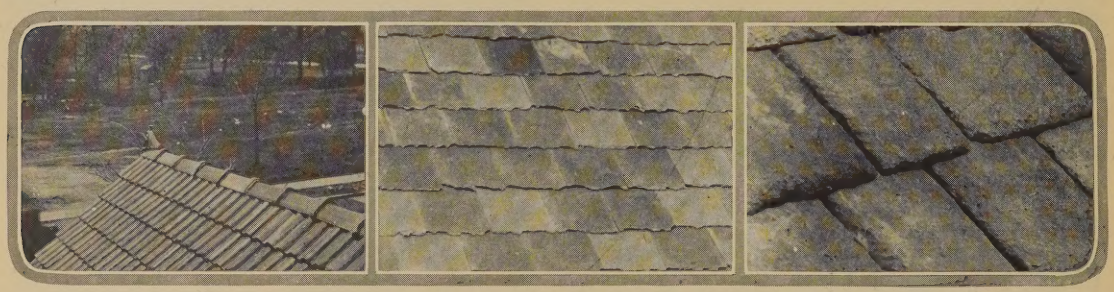
At the left is shown an old frame house which offered an interesting opportunity for improvement by remodeling

At the right is the same house with a porch extension built on and a new exterior of portland cement stucco

When Re-Roofing Time Comes

WHEN it becomes necessary to put a new roof on the home its owner faces a serious problem. Experience has probably indicated the fallacy of using the cheaper grades and types of shingles which may appear well at first but soon lose their efficiency and necessitate costly repairs. Portland cement is used to make two permanent and dependable types of roofing which are briefly described in the illustrations below.

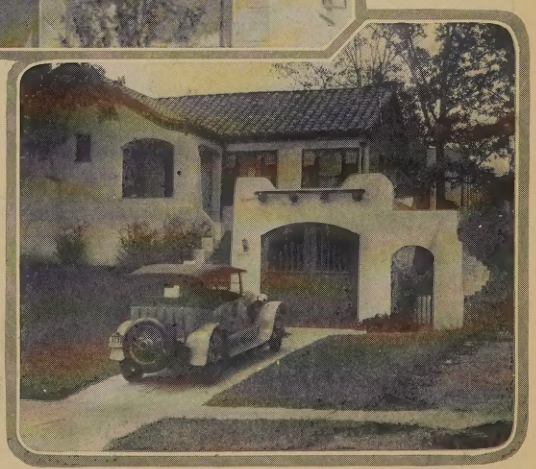
New Roofs for Old—the Best Roofs for New



The three small illustrations above show types of roofing material made with portland cement. At the left is a typical section of a roof covered with concrete mission tile—other illustrations show two types of cement asbestos shingles which are available in various color tones

At the left is shown the roof of the Lehigh Model Home in New York. This roofing is cement asbestos shingles in varied color tones—this house is illustrated in color in the book described opposite

The Lehigh Model Home in Kansas City with roof of cement asbestos shingles (as shown in upper right hand illustration)



Concrete mission tile are available in various colors for the roofs of homes of Spanish type (See upper left hand illustration)

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